

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 19-24 are pending in this application. Claims 19 and 22, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for these amendments is provided in the specification. No new matter has been introduced. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

The Title and Abstract have been amended, thereby obviating the objections.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 19, 21, 22, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,555,023 to Maenaka, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Maenaka").

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Maenaka.

IV. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 19 recites, *inter alia*:

“...a correlation detecting means for detecting a correlation value indicative of a degree of correlation in each of said at least two directions of said interpolated pixel data generated by said interpolated pixel data generating means, wherein an offset value is added to the correlation value which causes the interpolated pixel data to be weighted by the correlation value approach a direction in which the interpolation is made by arithmetic mean...” (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Maenaka relates to a signal processing circuit that is utilized in a video camera that includes a CCD having pixels arranged in a dot matrix fashion and color filters arranged in a mosaic fashion.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Maenaka that would teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 1.

Specifically there is no teaching or suggestion of a correlation detecting means for detecting a correlation value indicative of a degree of correlation in each of said at least two directions of said interpolated pixel data generated by said interpolated pixel data generating means, wherein an offset value is added to the correlation value which causes the interpolated pixel data to be weighted by the correlation value approach a direction in which the interpolation is made by arithmetic mean, as recited in independent claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 32, 35 and 41 are also believed to be patentable.

Furthermore, Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 23 on the grounds of Official Notice. Applicants respectfully submit that it is improper to take Official Notice of a claim recitation based on a mere assertion and without providing supporting factual evidence.

V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent on an independent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

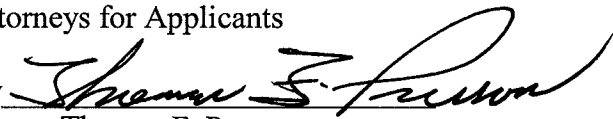
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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